

Catherine Somerville
Johnston, Rhode Island

March 22, 2021

Dear House Finance Committee,

My name is Catherine Somerville, and I am writing in **opposition** to Bill H-5193. I am a teacher at the Segue Institute for Learning in Central Falls and a resident of Johnston.

The Segue Institute for Learning currently serves 240 students in grades 3-8. As a result of an expansion recently approved by the R.I. Council of Education, Segue is expected to grow to include grades k-8, serving a total of 360 student within the next three years. That would provide an opportunity for 120 additional students. Like other expanding schools, Segue is well into the processes of planning and designing to accommodate our upcoming expansion.

Charter schools provide a high-quality education option for families and are held to strict standards by the Rhode Island Department of Education. In addition to academics, our school focuses on serving the needs of the whole child and the whole community. It is the flexibility of our charter that permits us to provide services to the community.

Please **oppose** house Bill H-5193 and continue to provide educational options and support for Rhode Island Families.

Thank you,

Catherine Somerville